

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 4, 2007. Independent claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended and dependent claims 2-4 have been cancelled. Therefore, reconsideration of all of the claims of the application is respectfully requested.

The previous claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Böhm et al. in view of Sorrells. Böhm et al. discloses a sheet-form textile material for lining noise-affected rooms. The textile material includes a backing layer 1 of felt, tufts 2, a layer 3 of foamed latex, an impermeable barrier layer 4, and a sound-insulating foamed back-coating 5, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Böhm et al. and discussed at Col. 5, lines 5-19.

Sorrells discloses a tufted synthetic pile fabric 10 having perforations 22 extending throughout the thickness of the fabric to facilitate ease of installation of the fabric 10 with a water-based adhesive. Col. 5, lines 13-55 with reference to Fig. 1. The perforations 22 are accomplished with a tufting machine after a primary backing 14 is adhered to a secondary backing 16 with a hot-melt adhesive. Col. 5, line 59 - col. 6, line 12.

Claim 1 has been amended to now describe a process for making a noise absorber carpet comprised of a fabric layer portion and a resinous backing layer portion, including the substantially concurrent steps of forming spikes on and perforating on resinous backing layer portion, and press bonding the resinous backing

layer and fabric layer portions. The spikes are formed by pressing a softened resinous backing material against a backing roll having spike depressions and the perforating is performed by pressing a perforation roll having perforation pins against the resinous backing layer on the backing roll to form noise absorbing perforations in the backing layer. Neither Böhm et al. nor Sorrells appears to teach or suggest this method; therefore, claims 1 and 5 are now in condition for allowance over the references.

Claims 6-8 and 9-12 were rejected further in view of Usui, which discloses a method and apparatus for producing a sheet molding compound. The method includes circulating a flat belt, changing the shape of the flat belt in the intermediate portion thereof into a cylindrical form, guiding a carrier film and warp linear materials longitudinally of the cylindrically formed portion, winding a weft linear material thereon, supplying synthetic resin, cutting open the cylindrically formed body comprising the warp linear materials and weft linear materials longitudinally into a belt-like sheet, and winding up the belt-like sheet. Col. 1, line 62 - col. 2, line 8. Usui does not teach or suggest any of the claim elements of either the previous claim 6 or 10.

Nevertheless, claims 6 and 10 have been amended to further distinguish the claimed inventions from the references. Claim 6 describes a system for making a noise absorber carpet including a fabric layer portion and a resinous backing layer portion. The system includes a fabric feeder roll for feeding a continuous roll of fabric to a carpet take up roll and a backing roll downstream of the feeder roll for receiving a continuous sheet of soft resinous backing material and rotating the resinous backing

material to the roll of fabric. The system also includes at least one resin feeder for feeding the sheet of resinous backing material onto the backing roll, and a perforation roll having perforation pins for perforating the resinous backing material on the backing roll. Böhm et al. and Sorrells were discussed above, and Usui does not appear to teach or suggest the system of amended claim 6, so claims 6-9 are now in condition for allowance over the references.

Claim 10 describes a system for making a noise absorber carpet having a fabric layer portion and a resinous backing layer portion. The system includes a fabric feeder roll for feeding a continuous roll of fabric to a carpet take up roll and a backing roll having perforation pins. The backing roll is between the feeder roll and the take up roll and serves to press bond a perforated resinous backing material to the fabric. The system also includes at least one resin feeder which feeds the resinous backing material in a sheet form onto the backing roll. Böhm et al. and Sorrells were discussed above, and Usui does not appear to teach or suggest the system of amended claim 10, so claims 10-13 are now in condition for allowance over the references.

Claims 9 and 13 were rejected further in view of Beggs et al., which discloses a honeycomb noise attenuating panel 8 including a honeycomb core 10 and facing sheets 14 and 16. Col. 1 lines 48-53 with reference to Figure 1. The panel of Beggs et al. does not include a resinous backing material containing continuous open cells, since Beggs et al. discloses a rigid panel, the reference does not suggest combining its

honeycomb core 10 with a modified version of Böhm et al. Therefore, claims 9 and 13 are in condition for allowance over the references for these additional reasons.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with this matter, please charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

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